

## Self-Help Assistance and Referral Program (SHARP) Press Release

The Superior Court of California, County of Glenn is pleased to announce the creation of the Self-Help Assistance and Referral Program or SHARP. The program is a joint regional venture of three Superior Courts, Butte, Glenn and Tehama. The program was developed in response to the needs of litigants who represent themselves in court matters. Many citizens cannot afford a lawyer or choose to represent themselves yet need assistance in preparing legal documents and navigating the court system. The SHARP program centers are designed to give self-represented litigants assistance with access to legal information. The center will provide workshops in all areas of civil law to aid these litigants

The courts applied and received \$166,000. in grant money to fund the program and three self-help centers (at least one in each county). Our local centers are one of 5 select model programs in the State of California. In addition to the grant for the SHARP program, the Glenn Superior Court also received a \$15,000. self-represented litigant assistance grant to furnish the SHARP office, purchase computers, publications, videos, supplies, software, etc.

While the self help center staff do not provide legal advice of the type one would obtain from a privately retained attorney, they will provide information about procedure, substantive law and choices litigants may have, thereby allowing people to make informed decisions about their cases. SHARP staff will also assist litigants in completing their legal forms. The program is designed to be "user friendly" to everyone, regardless of language or ability. The center will also provide community based referrals to agencies and non-profit organizations to further help people access the assistance they may need.

The Glenn County SHARP center is located at the Superior Court in Willows, Room 101, and is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Or call 530-934-6416 The center is staffed by a supervising attorney, paralegals, and clerical staff that have had experience in the legal field

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